



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

24 September 2020

The Hon Cameron Dick MP
Treasurer of Queensland
Via email: treasurer@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Time is running out to buy back the ABC site

Dear Treasurer,

I am writing to ask you to work with the Brisbane City Council to buy back the ABC site at 600 Coronation Drive, Toowong for the people of Brisbane.

The site is on the market and Expressions of Interest close in just under a week, on Wednesday 30 September. The State Valuer-General has estimated the site is worth \$31.5 million.

This is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to bring the ABC site back into public hands. It has sat derelict since 2006, after it was sold by the Federal government to private developers in 2013 for \$20 million.

Council has publicly confirmed that they are interested in buying back part of the site as a landing point for the proposed Toowong-West End bridge. The State government could propose a 50/50 split, meaning the purchase would cost far less than most road-widening projects, and would be cheaper than the \$400 million recently given as land tax rebates to major landlords.

The ABC site is the last remaining opportunity for significant riverfront public space in Toowong and surrounding suburbs, which have seen runaway population growth and development despite the progressive loss of public parks and facilities.

During the Depression in the 1930s, the State government built new schools around Brisbane and the Storey Bridge to help get Queenslanders working. A new riverside park, including a green bridge to West End, a public pool, gardens and a community centre would be a job-creating public works project on the same scale. It would be a city-making landmark: a new South Bank for the west side.

I urge the government to invest in an asset that all Brisbane residents and visitors could enjoy for generations to come. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if I can be of assistance.

Kind regards,

Michael Berkman MP

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